



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Island National Seashore  
P.O. Box 806  
St. Marys, GA 31558

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Park News

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# The Mullet Wrapper



The official newsletter of  
Cumberland Island National Seashore

March through May 2007

A Brown Pelican soars along the Seashore (NPS Photo)

## From the Superintendent

Senator Saxby Chambliss and members of his staff visited Cumberland Island on June 12<sup>th</sup>. This was the senator's first visit to the island, and it enabled him to get a first-hand look at the issues and challenges associated with managing the seashore.

We discussed the implementation of the Cumberland Island Wilderness Adjustment Act of 2004, which among other things removed the historic Main Road, Plum Orchard Spur, and North Cut Road from wilderness designation. Passage of this legislation has greatly enhanced the Park Service's ability to manage the natural, cultural, and wilderness resources on the remote north end of the island.

We are now able to complete much needed repairs to the historic structures in the Settlement located in the High Point/Half Moon Historic District. This was impossible to accomplish prior to the legislation because of the expense and the lack of other resources that would have been required to meet the stringent wilderness requirements. Another project that has benefited greatly is the Plum Orchard restoration project. The ability to use Plum Orchard Spur to deliver massive quantities of building materials has significantly reduced the cost, and the time required to complete repairs to the island's most significant structure.

Most importantly, once the associated Transportation Management Plan is implemented the visiting public will have an opportunity for a tremendously enhanced experience on the island. This will allow more of our visitors to experience the cultural, natural, and recreational resources on the north end of the island. The wilderness experience will be enhanced by providing more reasonable access to back country camping and day use wilderness hiking trips.

The 2004 Act also gives the park a very important tool that can be used to help achieve the five overarching goals of the National Park Service's Centennial Plan:

- Stewardship:** The National Park Service will lead America and the world in preserving and restoring treasured resources.
- Environmental Leadership:** The National Park Service will demonstrate environmental leadership to the nation.
- Recreational Experience:** National Parks will be superior recreational destinations where visitors have fun, explore nature and history, find inspiration, and improve health and wellness.
- Education:** The National Park Service will foster exceptional learning opportunities that connect people to parks.
- Professional Excellence:** The National Park Service will demonstrate management excellence worthy of the treasures entrusted to our care.



On the steps of Greyfield Inn are Kathryn Murph, Senator Chambliss' regional representative; Superintendent Jerre Brumbelow and his wife Valerie; island resident GoGo Ferguson; Senator Saxby Chambliss; and Lindsay Mabry, Senator Chambliss' senior advisor.



*J Brumbelow*  
Jerre Brumbelow  
Superintendent



# Youth Conservation Corps

Since its inception, the YCC has worked with many conservation agencies throughout the country to provide educational and team building skills for young people. Hundreds of employees currently working in land management agencies were introduced to the field via the YCC. In essence, the



2007 Cumberland Island National Seashore Youth Conservation Corps. From left to right: Ariel Crossman, Dillon Lewis, Hugh Clark, Jason Rucker, Rene Manning, and Katie Holcombe.



YCC hopes to capture the idealism of youth and create an environment where such idealism could be put into practice. This summer employment program permits men and women to enjoy working, earning, and learning by doing projects that further the development and conservation of the nation's natural resources. On May 29, 2007 the six students selected for this year's YCC program reported for work at 8:00am. They range in age from 15 to 18 and are all Camden County residents. Their Work Leader is Mark Feine, a local Middle School Teacher; he is assisted by Visitor Use Assistant Pauline Wentworth and they will both remain with the students until the program ends on July 20, 2007.

-Justin Helton  
Administrative Assistant

## Summer Safety Tips

While traveling, it is sometimes tempting to roll the window down, and lean your arm outside while driving long distances. The cooling effect of the wind can hide the fact that you might be getting badly sunburned. Remember cars get hot fast, even if its not that warm outside. Direct sunlight can raise the temperature in a car to dangerous levels in a matter of minutes. Never leave children, or pets inside a car.

While bicycling, wear protective gear, which includes an approved helmet. Maintain your bicycle in good working order. Be as visible as possible and wear bright colors to stand out and be seen by drivers and other bikers. When your kids go for a bike ride, encourage them to go in groups where there is safety in numbers. While at the beach, make sure to stay hydrated. Be sure to drink a lot of water, but avoid alcohol and caffeine. Apply sunscreen often and a lot of it. Keep your kids covered, but never apply sunscreen to anyone under six months of age. Instead limit the time they spend in the sun. Supervise the use of inflatable toys. They are easily blown out to sea, and children often attempt to recover them, which could put them in danger. Whether at the beach or pool, obey all rules and posted signs. Don't mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol impairs your judgment.

Before boating, be mindful of the weather forecast. If you are on the water in a boat, make sure to pay attention to weather reports for small craft advisories and other alerts. Make sure to tell someone who is not a member of your party where you are going, who is with you, and when you plan on returning. Lastly, please do not drink and drive, no matter what vehicle you are operating.



-Ron Crawford  
Visitor Use Assistant



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Justin Helton  
Administrative Assistant

# Hints from Helton

## Monitor Your Monitors!

The biggest electricity draw, out of all of your computer equipment, is the monitor which can use from 50 to 150 watts, depending on its size. Flatscreen monitors use 10-15 watts. When you're away from your computer, use the "sleep" or "energy-saver" mode. This will turn off the monitor, but your computer will not have to be restarted. If we just remember to turn off our monitors before we leave for the day, we have the opportunity to save the park a significant amount of money as well as conserve energy.

-Justin Helton  
Administrative Assistant

## Run To A Website!

A quick way to get to a website if you know the URL and don't want to wait for the home page of your Internet browser to load first, is to click on Start and then Run. Type the URL in the Run dialogue box and press the enter key. As long as you are running Windows, your default browser will automatically start, and take you directly to that web page.

## Website Statistics

Thus far, the month of May proved to be the most popular month to browse the Cumberland Island National Seashore website ([www.nps.gov/cuis](http://www.nps.gov/cuis)) this year. With 2,577 hits, our busy season seems to hold true on the World Wide Web as well. I would like to encourage those whom I approached about submitting a contribution to the website to submit them to me as soon as possible. The sooner I receive your data, the quicker we can increase our site visitation(both physically and digitally). Thanks for all your contributions.

## Quote Corner:

"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack in will."

-Vince Lombardi

# Upcoming TELNPS Courses:

June 27th  
2:00 - 3:00pm ET  
Course Code: NCTC  
Broadcasts  
Last Day to Register: June 27th  
**"FWS The Color of Tomorrow"**

This offers an exciting opportunity to explore diversity issues through a compelling live broadcast and later, an online discussion. The broadcast probes recruitment and diversity issues for natural resource agencies and organizations. We'll look at the numbers in our changing population and how fish and wildlife agencies are addressing their future audiences. A panel of experts in race and community relations will round out the program discussing barriers and opportunities to move forward in this critical challenge.

July 18th and 19th  
1:00 - 4:00pm ET  
Course Code: NPS-RSK6150  
Last Day to Register: July 10th  
**"Respiratory Protection - Breathing a Little Easier in the Workplace"**

This two day interactive workshop is designed to enable park leadership, safety officers and supervisors to understand how to properly implement a Respiratory Protection Program. Participants must be prepared to attend on both days and complete a 2

hour field activity between sessions.

July 23rd and Aug. 28th  
1:00 - 3:00pm ET  
Course Code:NPS-UNC6300  
Last Day to Register: July 21st  
**"Retirement Planning for New Employees"**

This training is designed to enable employees who are just beginning their careers to plan prudently for their retirement.

August 30th  
**"Adaptive Management Part II - Implementing Adaptive Management and Recognizing Success"**  
No information is available at this time.

Sept. 20th  
1:00 - 2:30pm ET  
**"DOI Ethics - Hatch Act"**  
No information available at this time.





It has been busy in our division since the last *Mullet Wrapper* publication. We have filled four temporary positions for summer work. First, is **Mark Feine** who is returning for the fourth summer as the YCC Team Leader. The other three, **Nick Rex**, **Slade Phillips**, and **Nick Marx** are students working in the Maintenance Division on special projects.

Our Division is working on getting our contracts completed and the funding obligated because the fiscal year has nearly entered the final quarter. It has been a difficult year because we are short two positions in Administration but thanks to Administrative Assistant **Justin Helton** and Budget Technician **Gary Head** we are still somehow getting it done!



Visitor Use Assistant Pauline Wentworth presenting an orientation to the 2007 YCCs.

We held our YCC orientation on May 29 in the Bachlott House Conference Room. Our six students were in attendance and following orientation they obtained their work permits and then immediately got busy working. Their first day they concentrated on mainland projects at the Visitor's Center. The next day they began their first full work day with projects on the island. Visitor Use Assistant **Pauline Wentworth** is assisting Team Leader Mark Feine this summer

and Pauline was instrumental in presenting the Orientation. She discussed the importance of working safely and shared our park's philosophy, "if we can't do it safely...we don't do it".

Happy Summer!

Until next time. ....*julie*

## Beach Drivers... Use Caution!



Signs such as these will soon be placed at various locations along the beach.

We are at that time of year when numerous species of shorebirds use Cumberland for nesting and rearing chicks, including several species of concern such as Wilson's Plovers and American Oystercatchers. The Wilson's Plovers already have chicks on the beach. The chicks are literally the size of cotton balls and feed between the dunes and surf. Scientific studies have shown a direct correlation to the amount of beach driving/human activity and survival of shorebird chicks. Please use extra caution when driving on the beach for the next several months to ensure the survival of these birds.

-Doug Hoffman  
Wildlife Biologist

## Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions



150 person crew debarks the Cumberland Queen upon arriving at the island.

Plum Orchard mansion. Plum Orchard is one of the premier historic structures in the State of Georgia and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visits from groups like this build support for historic structures on Cumberland Island. The group enjoyed dinner on the ferry trip over and dessert on the trip back courtesy of The Downtown Development Authority. The Plum Orchard trip was a huge hit and every one really enjoyed the trip.

-Jerre Brumbelow  
Superintendent



Superintendent Brumbelow discusses the Plum Orchard Mansion rehabilitation project.

## South-end Beach Survey Begins

The Resource Management Division began surveys of the south-end beach in May, continuing an earlier survey that began in 2005. Increased private boater use of the 1+ mile stretch of beach located south of the jetty poses potential threats to shorebirds, marine mammals such as manatees, and sea turtle nests. In addition to threats to wildlife, increased foot traffic can damage the dune's vegetative structure, causing long term erosion problems. Efforts are currently underway to post the area with educational signs and increase NPS personnel presence to limit detrimental activities in this area. Beach Creek will be added to the surveys this year to evaluate boat traffic. The Park will use information gained from the surveys to develop a long range management plan for this area in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division.



Increased private boat traffic to the south end of the island necessitates the creation of a management plan.

Results of the 2005 survey found the number of boats seen per survey day ranged from 1 to 22 with an average of 9. The number of people seen per survey day ranged from 2 to 79 with an average of 31. Increased beach activity and boat traffic were observed in late June, almost all of July, and through mid-August. Thirty-four dogs were recorded, 19 of which were without leashes. Thus far, activity appears to be heavier this year. The increased development of Camden County, GA and the Fernandina/Yulee, FL areas will most likely add to our south-end visitors in the future, necessitating management action before irreversible damage is experienced.

-Doug Hoffman  
Wildlife Biologist



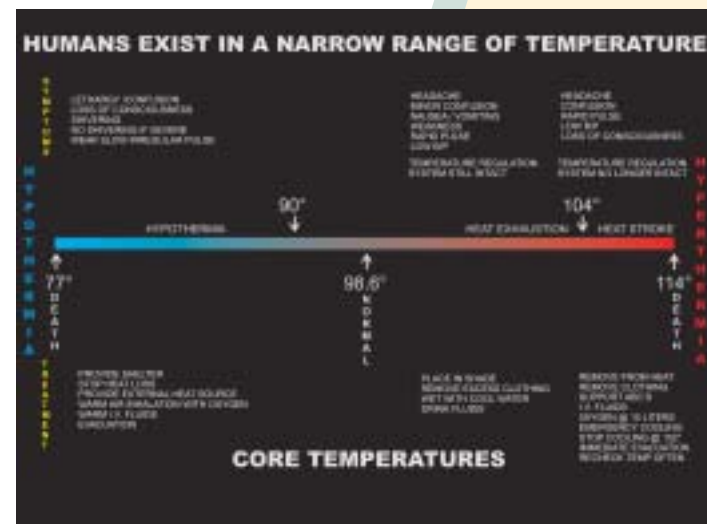
# Ranger DIVISION

## How To Avoid Heat Injuries

Now that the hot weather is here again, it doesn't hurt to give some thought on how to avoid becoming injured by the heat. Most people don't realize the narrow range of temperatures humans actually survive in. What I am talking about is our core temperature. We usually think of 98.6°F as normal and most of us can recall at some point in our lives when we have been sick and how bad we felt with a fever of only a few degrees. The truth is that when it comes to our core temperature we live in about a 14°F range. On the low end of the range when our core temp reaches about 90°F we have great difficulty re-warming our bodies. If our temp drops to 90°F it will usually continue to slip lower without an external heat source. This is referred to as **HYPOT**hermia. In our area people can easily become victims of hypothermia if they fall into cold water in the winter months. Treatment of hypothermia is very specific, and will be dealt with in another article during the cold part of the year. As we approach the hot days of summer we need to focus on the fact that after our body core temperature reaches about 104°F the body's ability to regulate its temperature and cool itself fails without outside intervention. This overheating of the body is called **HYPER**thermia. Thus, most experts agree that our lives exist within the narrow core temperature range of around 14°, from about 90° through 104°F. Anytime our temperature moves outside the thresholds of these core limits we usually require medical attention.

Humans unlike many animals don't pant as our main method of cooling our bodies, instead we sweat. The largest organ in the human body is our skin. It is our skin that acts just like the radiator in a liquid cooled engine. Evaporation in the form of sweat greatly enhances the efficiency of our skin to remove heat from the body. Some situations can arise however, which prevent our bodies from cooling properly. When the outside temperature and especially the humidity reach a certain point, the sweat just will no longer evaporate and our bodies can be at greater risk of overheating. If we don't drink enough fluids or in some cases take medications called diuretics, we may become dehydrated and then fluid in our radiator runs so low that we may not have enough liquid left to sweat and stay cool.

When a person overheats with what is called heat exhaustion he will notice a loss of energy or weakness and a throbbing headache. As their body's temperature increases they often will become nauseated and may vomit. These people need to be removed from the heat and given liquids as they cool down. In heat stroke, the body including our brain overheats and people will become confused, irritable, and eventually in severe heat stroke they lapse into unconsciousness. Heat stroke is a medical emergency where only a few minutes can make a huge difference in the outcome for the victim. Heat stroke patients need to be removed from the heat and undergo emergency cooling. They must be rapidly evacuated to advanced medical care or they may die.

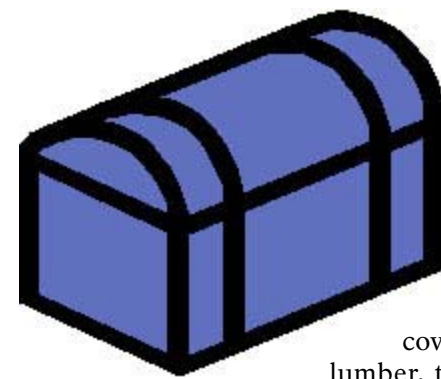


Prevention is the best way to avoid heat injuries. Avoid work in the sun during the hottest part of the day. Drink lots of fluids throughout the day. Remember that when you experience the sense of thirst you are already partially dehydrated. Thirst is not a reliable indication of how much to drink. We need to become our brother's keeper as we watch over those people we work and recreate with. They may become overheated and need to be encouraged to get out of the heat, cool off and drink lots of liquids.

-Dennis Curry  
Park Ranger

## Newspaper: More Than Paper

An important event recently occurred on Cumberland



Island, not earth shattering, but important nonetheless. On a recent Resource Management Division "project day", two steamer trunks were located on the second floor of the Carriage House. Shielded from view, and partially

covered by a large pile of scrap lumber, tucked neatly in the back

under the eaves, the trunks waited patiently to reveal their contents. After considerable work by all whom were present, the pile of debris was relocated so we could more closely examine the trunks, and our new museum objects. In one of the trunks, piles of brittle, crumpled old newspapers were found. Not exciting to most people I know, however, as many of you are aware it does not take much to excite a curator, especially if, as in this case, it was old, dirty smelly newspapers.

Why are newspapers so exciting, so important that some people would wax eloquent about them, or consider them important enough to preserve? Because within those old newspapers, crumpled, and dirty as they are, time stands still. Smiles are still wide, eyes still bright as the day of their pictures, not dulled by time, but expectantly waiting once again to be seen. Newspapers are a time capsule, chroniclers of a nation's defining moments, and of a life's everyday events. Newspapers mirror their communities; reflect their reader's everyday concerns and values. They share their lives and publish letters and opinion articles from their readers. In short, they are a substantial historical resource that is prone to deteriorate.



One of the sheets of newspaper that was recovered.



Some sheets of newspaper were in better condition than others.

Newsprint introduced an important change in paper production and availability. Up until 1850, all paper had rag content, making it last for centuries. Newsprint is different, it is made from wood pulp, boiling the short fibers, and forming them into sheets. Little of the lignin that binds cellulose fibers together is removed. The lignin causes acids to degrade the cellulose. The papers discolor, become brittle and disintegrate. Newsprint made this way has a life expectancy of less than fifty years, even with care.

Our newspapers found in that trunk date back to 1952, and had no care at all. They survived in a trunk located in an area prone to high temperatures and relative humidity, dirt, rodents, and of course insects. In most cases, they were in pieces, ripped or balled up. So highly brittle, they had to be misted with distilled water repeatedly, slowly loosening the folds and flattening them out very carefully lest they should rip even further. Once this was accomplished, each piece of newspaper was treated with an alkaline spray to counter the acids in the newsprint. Once the newsprint was dry, rips tears etc. were mended with PH neutral document repair tape, misted again with an alkaline spray, and stored in an acid free box, interleaved with buffered, acid free paper.

Yes, these newspapers are only fifty-five years old, and most of their contents are what everyday life is made out of, even today. Baseball standings, swim meets, engagements, weddings, and funerals. Fifty-five years ago, young men enlisted in the armed forces, babies were born, and wars waged, the names may have been different. For these reasons, and more, the day those trunks were discovered was a very important day indeed.



-John Mitchell  
Curator



# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## Turtle Season Begins



It's that time of year again. Sea turtle season! We are already in full swing on Cumberland. The first nest was laid on May 6th. This nest was unique in that it was the not only the first nest of the island, but was the first nest on the Georgia coast. So far we lead the Georgia coast with 45 nests, but still have June and July to go. Predictions are that nesting as a whole will be low this year after the 2 previous years of good numbers. For those of you who follow the nest cycles closely, there is theory that low nest numbers are correlated with tropical storms. Let's hope June and July are good months.



Photo by: Carol Ruckdeschel

Mr. Willard Fell of the Georgia Forestry Commission visited the island in April to measure a possible state record Sweetbay. Island resident Carol Ruckdeschel discovered the tree earlier and suggested a visit by Mr. Fell, who is responsible for the state's historic tree registry.

## Invasive Plant Management

The Resource Management Division monitors over 60 different plant species in numerous locations throughout the island and implements control measures when necessary to prevent damage to the environment. We have hired an SCA botany intern to work on more intensively managing several key species this summer, namely Chinese tallowtree (popcorn tree), tung oil tree, and salt cedar. Matthew Harrell has begun his 12-week internship and will be utilizing proven control techniques to maintain the island's natural flora. Matt, a North Carolina native, just graduated from the University of North Carolina with an environmental studies and marine science degree. Please welcome Matt to the Park when you see him.



Matthew Harrell

## Turtle Techs Arrival

The Resource Management Division welcomed two SCA "turtle techs" in May. Sasha Greenspan, a resident of Atlanta, GA, returned for her second season of turtle work. She began her career on Cumberland during the 2005 turtle season. Sarah Hamilton is spending her first turtle season with us this year. Sarah is from Decatur, Alabama and currently working on her college degree in wildlife at Auburn University. Please take the opportunity to welcome both of them to the island when you see them.



Sasha Greenspan



Sarah Hamilton

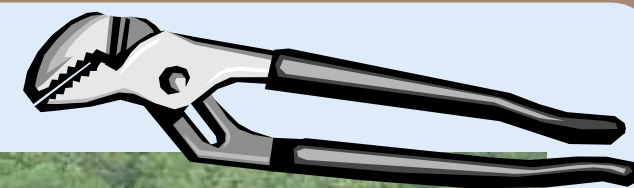
-Doug Hoffman  
Wildlife Biologist

# Maintenance Division

## Plum Orchard Rehabilitation

The Plum Orchard project is in full swing resulting to date approximately 75% completion. The project should be finished in September if not sooner. Most of the electrical, plastering, painting, plumbing, ventilation, fire protection and demolition of concrete has been performed. The first floor has been sanded and prepared for application of a floor finish. We are asking that no one except the contractors and NPS folks involved in the project walk on the floors during the refinishing stage. In early June all of the concrete work on the porches should be completed.

-David Casey  
Facility Manager



Aerial photo of Plum Orchard Mansion

## Alberty House

The Alberty House preservation work is underway this summer. Rehabilitation efforts will include lead paint abatement interior repairs to the wall, floors and ceilings. An ADA ramp to gain entry to the structure, men and womens



Alberty House

A D A compliant restrooms and a new roof. We will try to match the original paint colors on the interior as close as possible.

## Dungeness Stabilization

The Dungeness stabilization project has been awarded to Enola Contracting out of Chipley Florida. This contractor was also responsible for the Plum Orchard interior rehabilitation. This preservation project is needed to stabilize, consolidate and conserve existing historic materials and features. The first stage will involve removing vegetation from the structure avoiding disturbance of existing materials and structural stability.



-David Casey  
Facility Manager





# VOLUNTEER!

## Cumberland Welcomes University of Georgia Interns

Rachael Jennings and Rebecca Taylor are enrolled in a Cumberland Island Internship, through a partnership with the University of Georgia. Professor Craig Miller from U.G.A. and Volunteer Coordinator Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox have established what is to become an ongoing program, which will be mutually beneficial to both organizations and students. Both students will be earning college credit while completing a number of assigned projects, conducting Dungeness tours, Dockside and Campfire programs, facilitating children's crafts and storytelling, working in the mainland museum and assisting with Teacher Workshops and other special emphasis programs.



Rachael and Rebecca experiencing the marsh resource first hand, at the recent teacher workshop.

Rachael is a third year student majoring in Forest Resources and Wildlife and she is excited about the internship opportunity on Cumberland Island. A confessed "city girl" she states "I will be able to experience many new and exciting things, such as viewing wildlife in their natural environment, which up until this point, I have only heard and read about".

Rebecca, also a third year student and artist, states "I have always been torn between careers in science or art, and then discovered that what I really loved was sharing and discovering with others". She is also enjoying the opportunity to immerse herself in the natural environment and beauty of Cumberland Island.

## Alternative Spring Break

Joining in the spring rituals on island de Cumberland, are our annual Alternative Spring Break Groups. This year "Boston University", Wisconsin-Madison, University of Loyola-Minnesota, University of Maryland, University of New Hampshire, Warren Wilson College, and Westminster University, along with several local and regional Boy Scout Groups, Coalition for Christian Outreach, Thompson High School and others, all together comprised 21 work groups with close to 300 volunteers and resulted in 17,000 hours of volunteer time.



Members of the team gather to watch a movie of reflection on their time here at Cumberland Island.

Work teams cleaned and organized a huge safety and fire cache, scraped and painted historic structures, assessed and restored trails, cleaned up beaches, counted feral horses and birds, cleared fence lines, worked on boardwalks and trail signage, removed trash piles, rebuilt structures, cleaned vehicles, and of course had the distinct pleasure of contributing to the well being of the planet by their hard work and dedication, and for this WE THANK YOU!!!!



Students pause from fuel reductions to pose for a picture with Ranger Dennis Curry.

-Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox  
Interpretive Ranger

## Teacher Workshop

Once again, area teachers journeyed through the legacy of the islands people and places through our now annual teacher workshops. Tuition and Professional Learning Units (PLU's) for the workshop was provided by the Camden County Board of Education. Though only a small group of five teachers and two interns, their days and nights were filled with inspiration and education. Participants enjoyed sessions presented by Visitor Use Assistant Pauline Wentworth, Wildlife Biologist Doug Hoffman, Interpretive Ranger Ginger Cox, SCA Turtle Techs Sasha Greenspan and Sarah Hamilton, and teacher Julie Stormer. Sessions included Barrier Island Ecology, Marsh Metaphors, Beach and Dune Ecology, Forest Frolic, Dungeness walk, trip to Plum Orchard, hikes on Willow Pond, beach combing, Turtle Talks, Resource Challenges, and Mapping and Orienteering. Other activities included make and take crafts, the Cumberland Island Movie, Cumberland Jeopardy, and a sunrise greeting on the last day. Teachers received numerous educational resources, through our partnerships with Eastern National Bookstores, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Georgia Coastal Education Alliance, and The Travel Store. Lastly, they enjoyed meals and snacks prepared by long time volunteer, chief cook and bottle washer John Wilder.



Teachers collected water samples from fresh, brackish, and salt water to look for plankton samples.



Visitor Use Assistant Pauline Wentworth demonstrates that the proper way to coax a snail out of its shell is by placing the shell on your neck and humming.



As part of their Archeology session, teachers practiced plotting and gridding.

-Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox  
Interpretive Ranger

## All Employee Meeting

An All Employee Meeting was held on March 24th in the Bachlott Conference Room. The Superintendent spoke about the park's ongoing projects and future goals. Each Division Chief elaborated about various projects in their divisions, allowing employees to ask questions and voice their opinions.



Superintendent Jerre Brumbelow presents Length of Service certificates to the following: (from left to right) Jeff Lewis (10 years), Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox (10 years), Ron Crawford (10 years), and Brian Wentworth (20 years).

Also, a Certificate of Appreciation was given to Administrative Assistant Justin Helton. Justin has been filling in for the vacant Information Technology Specialist position and also doing GPRA for our park. He does a great job and our park appreciates his dedication.



Some of the cogs that turn the Cumberland Island wheel.

-Julie Meeks  
Administrative Officer